

FY 2016
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.
 Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us by **February 3, 2017**.

(NOTE: *Italicized comments are for your reference only. You may delete them when completing form.*)

Project Name	Gold Bug AML Closure
Date the Decision is needed (m/d/y)	06/30/2017
District name (or "Forestwide")	Palouse Ranger District
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email	Rebecca Anderson, 208-476-8351 rebeccaanderson@fs.fed.us
Legal Location	T42N R3W, Sec. 20
County(ies) where project located?	Latah County
District Ranger / Line Officer's Name <i>Responsible for signing the Decision document</i>	Stefani Spencer, Palouse District Ranger
Date you informed DR / Line Officer of project?	10/13/2016
Is this project covered in a current NEPA project?	No
Watershed and subwatershed the project is located? <i>Clearwater, Hangman/Palouse/Rock, Lower North Fork Clearwater, Lochsa</i>	Deep Creek-Palouse River
In which CE Category does this project fit?	36 CFR 220.6(e)(8)
If this is a "36 CFR 220.6 (d)" category, does the DR / Line Officer want this to be a Letter to the File (not scoped to public), or a Decision Memo (scoped to public)? LTF DM	
List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located. E1 <i>1987 Forest Plan maps can be found at O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\ Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Management Areas</i>	

What are the desired conditions for the Management Area(s)? *Desired conditions are the forestwide management area goals and standards described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and the Clearwater Forest Plans. List all that apply.*

Description

This, the largest block MANAGEMENT AREA El (503.567 Acres) of land within -the Forest, contains generally the most productive timber land in the Forest. The area contains approximately 422,390 acres that have been developed for timber harvest in the past and approximately 81,177 acres of presently undeveloped land. Productivity potential ranges from 20 cubic feet per acre per year to over 170 cubic feet per acre per year. Most of the area IS also suitable big-game summer range with white-tailed deer the predominant species in the Palouse District and elk the predominant species in the rest of the Forest. The area also contains considerable sections of intermingled private land in the Powell, Kelly Creek, and Palouse Districts. In many drainages in the Palouse District, the El lands occupy less acreage than the Intermingled private land. A large block of private land is also found intermingled with El land

Goals

Provide optimum, sustained production of wood products. Timber production is to be cost effective and provide adequate protection of soil and water quality. Manage viable elk populations within areas of historic elk use based on physiological and ecological needs. Manage a range of water quality and fish habitat potential from high fishable in several of the key anadromous and resident fish streams to a low fishable in the Palouse District and portions of the Pierce District.

Minerals

Provide for access to and the orderly exploration, development and production of minerals and energy resources, while meeting Forest Plan direction for other resources.

1987 Forest Plan docs can be found at O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Management Areas

Is the project in a Roadless Area? Yes* No X

(See O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info\General Roadless Info for Briefing Paper Info and Template.)

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes* No X

If yes, which one(s)?

1987 Forest Plan maps can be found at O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Management Areas

Does the project involve road construction, reconstruction, temporary roads, or haul routes?

Yes* No X

Are Municipal Watersheds located in the project area? Yes No X

If yes, which one(s)?

Are there floodplains or wetlands in the project area? Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the project in the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area? Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Describe the existing condition(s) of the project area. There is a vertical shaft that has been caved in, but is reportedly 300 feet deep.
What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action? <i>The purpose and need describes - Why the action is being proposed at this location and at this time (need) and the desired objectives/outcomes of the action (purpose).</i> The purpose of this project is to permanently close an open shaft at an abandoned mine site using standard closure methods. The project is needed to eliminate public safety risks associated with existing mine openings, while maintaining wildlife habitat (where needed) and the historical integrity of the sites. Closure methods used will be filling in the hole with earthen materials.

Describe the Proposed Action:

Please answer ALL questions in complete sentences/paragraphs. Be thorough and informative. The answers will be used to write the Scoping Letter and the Letter to File or the Decision Memo.

The Proposed Action should describe:

who plans to do

The closure will be completed by Forest Service personnel.

what specific action(s)/activities,

Closure methods used will include either Polyurethane Foam Plugs, metal bars, polyurethane foam, drain pipes, and earthen materials for covering foam.

where they want to do it,

The Gold Bug Mine site is located at T42N, R3W, Sec. 20

how it would be done, and

Closure methods used will include filling the hole in with earthen materials.

when it would be done.

The closure would happen in summer 2017.

What type(s) of equipment will be used?

The Project would need a backhoe or other earthmoving equipment to fill in the hole.

Does the project change access restrictions? If so, how?

No

What type(s) of ground disturbance will there be?

There may be a small amount of ground disturbance in order to get material to fill the shaft, but it would be less than 10 yds³. This land has already been disturbed by past mining.

Do other entities or agencies need to be contacted for coordination? If so, who and for what?

No

When will the project start and how long will it take to complete?

This project should be able to be done in one day.

List design criteria/mitigation measures to be included with the proposed action below. Provide additional criteria/measures on the last page of this form under "Additional Information".

What Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used with this project? Provide additional BMPs on the last page of this form under "Additional Information".

Min – 8. Minerals Site Reclamation, *National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on NFS Lands*, p. 76-78.

Specific individuals/groups/businesses within the district(s) impacted by this project who should be contacted (along with their email and mailing addresses) during the Scoping process.

Byron Allenby, 4190 Highway 8, Troy, ID 83871-9655

Jane Allenby, PO Box 9472, Moscow, ID 83843-0119

Joseph Allenby, PO Box 94, Troy, ID 83871-0094

Kenneth Allenby, PO Box 94, Troy, ID 83871-0094

Corey Lemper, 445 Willow Street, Onaway, ID 83855-8741

(NOTE: tribal / state / county governments will already be contacted)

Please attach to your project submission email, separate from this form, a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) per the instructions outlined below. Do not give links to maps or datasets. Please make sure that the layers can be turned on/off on your PDF map(s).

At least one map, with (preferably) a “portrait” orientation, showing project location as points, e.g. culvert, mineral exploration site, etc.; lines, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc.; and/or the project boundary as a polygon, e.g. stand, treatment area, etc. Do not use a point when treating an area, use a polygon. If your project involves more than one activity, please show all activities separately (when possible) on the map.

The map(s) should include identifying features, such as towns, roads, trails, rivers/streams, geophysical landmarks, etc. The features to include are up to you, as long as they are clearly labeled and help identify where the project is on the landscape.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your Base layer (see below*). This will standardize the appearance of the maps for scoping. Please do not add contour lines to the map unless needed. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.

Preferred scale is 1:24000. If this scale is too small, use a larger scale or insert a map showing the project location relative to Major landmarks or where on the Forests. If the entire project area can't be shown at 1:24K, have one map showing the full extent of the project area, and additional maps showing the parts of the project in detail. Conversely, if the 1:24K scale is too large (the location appears as a tiny point or a thin line on a large landscape), use a smaller scale to provide detail while ensuring that the project location is identifiable.

The map should include, at a minimum, a Title (the project name - do not include 'Exhibit A', etc.), a legend with the project feature/activity layer(s) clearly labeled, ex. culvert, fence line, treatment area, etc., a scale in miles (not km) using full miles (ex. 0_0.25_0.5_1.0 miles; ending at 0.5 miles okay), and a north arrow.

The point is - the map(s) should clearly show the Public where the project will occur and what activity or activities are being proposed.

The resource specialists want the shapefile(s) of the project feature(s) shown on the map. If you do not provide the shapefile(s) when or before you submit this form, the project will be held up until you do. Make sure the shapefile is labeled with the project's name and type of feature, ex. X culvert, X decom road, X treatment area, etc. before you send it. Any received without a label will be returned.

*Note: providing the shapefile(s) for the specialists **does not substitute** for providing the map.*

Please send the shapefile(s) to me at jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us. Be sure to include the files with the following extensions: .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

** The Small NEPA geodatabase contains feature classes, including the Forest Visitor Map, that can be used for map creation. The geodatabase is found at:*

T:\FS\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\GIS\SmallNEPA.gdb\gdb

If you need help with accessing and/or working with the geodatabase in GIS, contact your Zone GIS Specialist (first) or you can contact Jim Lutes at jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202.

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists for the project are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource and your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mhays01@fs.fed.us; 983-4028

Cultural – Steve Lucas, slucas@fs.fed.us; 983-4040

Fisheries – Christine Stewart, christinestewart@fs.fed.us; 963-4211

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, cvalle@fs.fed.us; 963-4203

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us; 935-4270

Soils – Robert Bergstrom, robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us; 963-4202 (temporary)

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202

Project in Roadless Area

<p>What is the Roadless Area name?</p> <p><i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i></p>	<p>Idaho Roadless Area (IRA) Name:</p> <p>Forest Plan IRA Name (<i>if different</i>):</p>
<p>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management classification because permitted activities vary by classification.</p> <p><i>Classifications include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	<p>Classification:</p>
<p>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2/xml/CFR-2011-title36-vol2-sec294-23.xml</i></p>	
<p>Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2/xml/CFR-2011-title36-vol2-sec294-24.xml</i></p>	
<p>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2/xml/CFR-2011-title36-vol2-sec294-25.xml</i></p>	

Project Involving Road Construction, Reconstruction, Temporary Roads, and/or Haul Routes

Note: Specialists will address items 9-11 (*in italics*) below.

ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS	YES / NO	MITIGATION MEASURE/COMMENTS
1. Will road construction or reconstruction be required? Type of road and length.		
2. Will temporary roads be needed?		
3. Will road maintenance be needed? Who will perform?		
4. Will there be a change to the current road restrictions?		
5. Are haul roads part of an established snowmobile network?		
6. Are there public safety concerns for roads, trails, or other road improvements?		
7. Are there other improvements which will require protection?		
8. Does the area currently meet Forest Plan standards for soils?		
9. <i>Will the project impact elk security?</i>		
10. <i>Will the project or log haul impact winter range?</i>		
11. <i>Will the project impact critical elk summer range?</i>		

JC : 8/19/2016

Additional Information: